

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-26 were pending. Claims 1-18 and 26 have been canceled, claims 19 and 20 have been amended and new claims 30-36 have been added. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 19-25, 27-28 and 30-36 will be pending.

Claims 1-26 were restricted to one of the following two inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I: Claims 1-18 and 29, drawn to an apparatus for processing samples;

Group II: Claims 19-25 and 27-28, drawn to chemical processes for analysis; and

Group III: Claim 26, drawn to a platform with sensing areas.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute claims from Group II, specifically claims 19-25 and 27-28, drawn to chemical processes for analysis. Claims 1-18, 26 and 29 are hereby canceled.

Claim 19 was amended to explicitly include the limitations from claim 1, and to remove the dependency to claim 1. Claim 20 was amended to change "method" to process for consistency. Claims 30-36 have been added to more particularly point out aspects of the invention.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application in the future to prosecute claims in Groups I and III.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/043,629
Amdt. dated September 22, 2003
Response to Restriction Requirement of July 21, 2003

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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